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the tracks can afford to pay the additional revenue to the state. One year ago I introduced LB76 which increased the tax paid to the state by one percent. At that time the argument was offered that this would hurt racing in Nebraska. Now I have some figures to offer you but I'm not going to bore you with the figures, but will tell you frankly that last year the attendance at the track picked up, the total betting for the total pair of mutual increased and the average amount was wagered per race had increased. This in spite of the fact that we increased the tax to the state from 4 to 5 percent. The revenue committee is a very fine committee, but they are very much opposed to this bill and I can understand why, because there is one track in Nebraska that is very, very active and which extends its influence clear across the state of Nebraska and I think that they do a lot of good, but I want to point out that we are going to have a difficult time telling our people back home that they need to face increased costs in all areas and that it is going to bankrupt racing in Nebraska if we increase the tax on betting. I think that I had now handed out to you the only piece of correspondence which I have received in opposition to this bill, and I suggest that this kind of opposition does not guarantee to me that there is opposition to the increase in tax on this type of betting. I think also that we should recognize and be honest with ourselves that if we are going to spend money in this state we should get the money from those areas where the public has a choice as to whether or not they want to spend the money or not. Certainly racing falls into that category. I know that there are arguments and good ones, which we can use against this theory, but I feel that if I do not want to pay 6% tax to the state of Nebraska on the money I spend wagering, all I need to do is to remain home from the track. Now, the letter that I handed out points out that a man can't make an honest living at the track anymore. I didn't know that he ever could. I want to point out also that 10 other states of the 27 that have horse racing presently collect 6% or more in tax. I want to point out also that if we were going to have a decrease in the revenue to the state as a result of this bill, the panel in Nebraska would have to drop by more than 18 million dollars. I don't think that that is going to happen. I want to point out also that if we were going to have a decrease in attendance, the attendance would have to drop for more than one million people to eight-hundred and forty-six thousand before we would suffer any loss in revenue. It seems to me that the only people that are going to be affected by this bill are the real hard core betters. I don't think that we need to be concerned about them. I think that we need to go back to the original intent for the paramutual betting in Nebraska and racing and that is it. To improve the breed and to promote the sport. It is supposed to be a sport. The king of sports. I think that the king of sports can certainly afford to pay this money. Now then, you ask why do I ask for another one percent for the track and for the horseman. If it is supposed to promote breeding then we have to return to the breeders substantial amounts of money in the form of purses. I think that the breeders and I have communicated with many of them have indicated to me that they certainly would support this. They are not going to be coming before the committee and oppose the bill because they have to go before the same track and ask for spaces on those races and they know that they do not want to incur the rack of the various track managers, so they are not going to support my bill. I think that we have to remember also Senator Burbach has a bill here in the a.a..